

METROPOLITAN DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

DATE: November 16, 2009

CALLED TO ORDER: 5:35 p.m.

ADJOURNED: 6:12 p.m.

ATTENDANCE

ATTENDING MEMBERS

Kent Smith, Chairman
Jeff Cardwell
Jose Evans
Brian Mahern
Dane Mahern
Janice McHenry
Jackie Nytes
Lincoln Plowman

ABSENT MEMBERS

Ginny Cain

AGENDA

PROPOSAL NO. 410, 2009 - approves the amounts, locations and programmatic operation of certain projects to be funded from the Community Development Grant Funds in 2010

"Do Pass"

Vote: 7-0-1

METROPOLITAN DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

The Metropolitan Development Committee of the City-County Council met on Monday, November 16, 2009. Chairman Kent Smith called the meeting to order at 5:35 p.m. with the following members present: Jeff Cardwell, Brian Mahern, Dane Mahern, Janice McHenry, Jackie Nytes and Lincoln Plowman. Jose Evans arrived shortly thereafter. Ginny Cain was absent.

Chairman Smith asked the Committee members to introduce themselves and indicate which portion of the County they represent.

PROPOSAL NO. 410, 2009 - approves the amounts, locations and programmatic operation of certain projects to be funded from the Community Development Grant Funds in 2010

Jennie Fults, Administrator, Community Economic Development Division of the Department of Metropolitan Development (DMD), introduced Erica Aquila, Assistant Administrator, and various staff members who participate in the action plan process. She gave a brief powerpoint presentation (attached as Exhibit A) regarding the Consolidated Plan, which is developed through a community process and provides an analysis of housing and community development needs, and sets forth a plan for the type of activities needed to meet these needs. She said that this plan also serves as the application for federal entitlement grant programs. She outlined the steps to the Consolidated Plan and said that two public meetings were held, surveys were sent out to the neighborhood organizations, and consultations took place with over 95 stakeholders to determine needs and priorities. She explained the goals and strategies for 2010 to 2014, which are as follows:

- Encourage economic development activities and efforts in the community..
- Stabilize distressed neighborhoods through targeted development.
- Support housing stabilization efforts throughout Marion County.
- Prevent homelessness through the support and operations of programs that serve very low-income residents.
- Decrease homelessness through support of homeless programs and housing projects.
- Support the needs of persons living with HIV/AIDS and their families (specifically related to the Housing Opportunities for Persons with Aids/HOPWA grant).

[Clerk's Note: Councillor Evans arrived at 5:43 p.m.]

Ms. Fults stated that the Consolidated Plan is available on the department's website. She said that the Annual Action Plan then updates the Consolidated Plan and allocates program dollars to projects that will assist in achieving the objectives set forth in that plan. She said that there are four main grant programs covered in the action plan:

- Community Development Block Grant (CDBG),
- Home Investment Partnership (HOME),
- Emergency Shelter Grant (ESG), and
- Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA).

Ms. Fults stated that they received input from citizens through public meetings, surveys through the jury pool and published surveys on the city's website. The department received 426 surveys and then formulated its top five housing related issues, top three service related issues, and top three homeless service needs. She said that requests totaled \$27.1 million, with only \$13 million to distribute. She said that they had over \$10 million more in requests than last year.

Councillor B. Mahern asked from what areas the extra \$10 million in requests came. Ms. Fults said that it was across the board, but major increases were seen in job placement, affordable rental opportunities and public service programs.

Ms. Fults explained the scoring and evaluation criteria and stated that all applicants are made aware of the scoring and evaluation criteria throughout every step of the approval process.

Councillor D. Mahern asked about IndyGo providing bus tickets to homeless shelters, and asked if all these shelters are on or near a bus route. Ms. Fults answered in the affirmative. Councillor D. Mahern asked how the brownfields, unsafe buildings and demolition program allotments compare to other years. Ms. Fults said that they are all the exact same funding amount as previous years. Councillor D. Mahern asked about the reference to grants for HOPWA monies going to a hospital in Bloomington, and how that benefits Marion County residents. Ms. Fults said that the HOPWA grant is different from the others in that it covers Marion County and eight surrounding counties. This particular Bloomington facility serves portions of Brown County, which is included in this grant's region. She said that all of the other grant programs from the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) require that the funds be used in Marion County. However, HUD defines the service area for the HOPWA grants to include the contiguous surrounding counties and Brown County. This hospital, or service provider, serves Brown County. Councillor D. Mahern asked if this is the only provider that falls into this category. Ms. Fults said that it is based on region, and they are required to serve all of Region 7, and that is the only instance that she can recall. Councillor D. Mahern asked if a map can be provided to committee members of Region 7 so that they can explain this to constituents if asked.

Councillor Nytes asked about the process for documenting actual results. Ms. Fults said that organizations that receive funding from the city through DMD are required to report quarterly, and they track progress in that way. They also provide, at minimum, one on-site visit of all recipients, and are required to do an annual report to HUD in March of each year. This report includes performance evaluations of all individual recipients, as well as progress toward meeting the action plan goals and benchmarks.

Councillor McHenry asked how they know people are indeed 80% below median income to receive housing benefits. Ms. Fults said that the recipient organizations have specific documentation they are required to use, prescribed by HUD, with prior year tax documents, current check stubs, etc. required to confirm income levels. She said that these are primarily community-based organizations and they work closely with the clients to establish a relationship, as well as procuring the required documentation. Councillor McHenry asked if home visits are conducted. Ms. Fults said that all of those receiving downpayment or mortgage assistance are put through the normal rigorous standard mortgage approval process with all due diligence. Organizations that provide money for home repairs do make on-site physical inspections. She said that the city also has three inspectors within DMD who review all work before it is done to insure that they are meeting all applicable codes and providing quality work.

Councillor D. Mahern asked if the committee can receive a list of applicants who received funding last year that are not receiving it this year, and those who are new on the list this year. He said that this will help to show citizens that it is a rigorous process and not everyone gets funding every year. Ms. Fults agreed to provide these lists. Councillor D. Mahern asked when the 2011 process will begin. Ms. Fults said that the application will be released to the public in late June, and will be available on the website and published in the newspaper. She said that up until that application is released, organizations that wish to apply for these grants who need technical assistance can contact Ms. Aquila at 327-5444.

Chairman Smith called for public testimony at 6:06 p.m.

Michael Osborne, president of the Near North Development Corporation and representative of the Indianapolis Coalition for Neighborhood Development (ICND), stated that ICND is a delivery mechanism for almost 60% of the HOME funds and 45% of the CDBG funds, and they appreciate the city's partnership and support the committee moving forward with this proposal.

Katie Brett, Indy East Asset Development Corporation, thanked the DMD staff for working with them to create affordable housing opportunities and urged the committee to support the proposal.

Councillor Nytes said that she would like to vote on this issue, because she appreciates all the work put into the process. However, she asked for consent to abstain to avoid a

possible conflict of interest because of her involvement in one of the organizations receiving some of these grant dollars. Consent was given.

Councillor B. Mahern moved, seconded by Councillor Plowman, to send Proposal No. 410, 2009 to the full Council with a "Do Pass" recommendation. The motion carried by a vote of 7-0-1, with Councillor Nytes abstaining.

There being no further business, and upon motion duly made, the meeting was adjourned at 6:12 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kent Smith, Chairman

KS/ag